

REMARKS

Claims 1-72 are pending after this amendment.

Applicants have amended claims 1; 2, 4, 8, 10, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 25, 28, 29, 30, 32, 36, 42, 43, 44, 46, 50, 53, 56, 57, 61, 65, and 69 in order to more particularly define the invention and to provide proper antecedent basis. The amendments were not necessitated by the claim rejections. Applicants make no admission as to the patentability or unpatentability of the originally filed claims.

The amendments and remarks presented herein are in response to the Final Office Action dated January 24, 2005.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-72 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Connor et al. (5,638,499) in view of Bier (6,072,501) and further in view of Schiller et al. (6,049,339). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 15, 29, 43, 57, 61, 65, and 69 as amended recite a fade value that specifies an overall opacity of a layer. As discussed at paragraphs 47 through 52, 78 of the specification filed on December 14, 2001, according to one embodiment of the present invention, the opacity of an image pixel may be composited based on a fade value representing layer-wide opacity as well as an opacity value of a layer pixel corresponding to the image pixel. Note that a fade value specifies an overall opacity of a layer and applies to all pixels in a layer, which is distinct from separate opacity values applied to separate layer

pixels. By specifying a layer-wide opacity, a fade value facilitates effects such as fade out and translucent dragging of an entire layer. For example, a fade value may be used to implement fading in and out of windows when they are opened or closed by gradually changing the fade value of the layer corresponding to the window being opened or closed. Applicants respectfully submit that neither O'Connor et al., Bier, or Schiller et al. discloses or suggests a fade value specifying an overall opacity of a layer. Therefore, these references fail to provide useful features such as fade out and translucent dragging of layers. Accordingly, Applicants submit that none of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, anticipates or makes obvious independent claims 1, 15, 29, 43, 57, 61, 65, and 69 as amended.

Claims 2-14, 16-28, 30-42, 44-56, 58-60, 62-64, 66-68, and 70-72 are variously dependent upon claims 1, 15, 29, 43, 57, 61, 65, and 69. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-72 are allowable over the prior art.

On the basis of the above amendments, consideration of this application and the early allowance of all claims herein is requested.

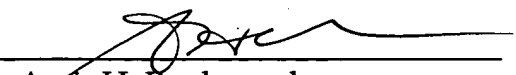
Should the Examiner wish to discuss the above amendments and remarks, or if the Examiner believes that for any reason direct contact with Applicants'

representative would help to advance the prosecution of this case to finality, the

Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
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